

## **REMARKS**

Claims 24, 27, and 31 are canceled. No claims are amended or added by this paper. Hence, Claims 1-19, 23, 25, and 29 are pending in this application, of which Claims 14, 25, and 29 are withdrawn from consideration. Entry of these amendments under 37 CFR §1.116(b)(1) is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone relating to any issue that would advance examination of the present application.

A petition for extension of time, to the extent necessary to make this reply timely filed, is hereby made. If applicable, a law firm check for the petition for extension of time fee is enclosed herewith. If any applicable fee is missing or insufficient, throughout the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any applicable fees and to credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP

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